

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

- 1     1.     (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring a service level agreement,  
2             wherein the service level agreement defines for a particular network a level of  
3             service that has been offered to a customer by a service provider, the method  
4             comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
5             creating a schema that provides a set of rules for defining service level  
6             agreements;  
7             receiving information defining ~~a particular~~ the service level agreement, wherein  
8             said information defines one or more tests for monitoring the level of  
9             service that has been offered to the customer; and  
10            verifying that the information defining ~~said particular~~ the service level agreement  
11            conforms to the set of rules in said schema.
- 1     2.     (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps  
2             of:  
3             if said information defining ~~said particular~~ the service level agreement conforms  
4             to the set of rules in said schema, then  
5             distributing the one or more tests to one or more agents that are configured  
6             to communicate with devices that are associated with the particular  
7             network;  
8             receiving result information based on the devices performing the one or  
9             more tests; and  
10            creating and storing reporting information that indicates whether the  
11            customer is receiving the level of service that has been offered.
- 1     3.     (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein the step of creating a schema  
2             includes the step of generating a schema based on Extensible Markup Language  
3             (XML), wherein the schema provides a template for defining service level  
4             agreements.

- 1     4.     (Original) The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
2             generating, at a server, interface data for defining service level agreements; and  
3             communicating the interface data to a client that is remote from said server,  
4                     wherein the interface data allows users to define tests for monitoring the  
5                     level of service that is being provided by the service provider.
- 1     5.     (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the ~~steps~~  
2             step of verifying that the particular network includes one or more devices that may  
3             be configured to perform the one or more tests.
- 1     6.     (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium carrying sequences of  
2             instructions for monitoring a service level agreement, wherein the service level  
3             agreement defines for a particular network a level of service that has been offered  
4             to a customer by a service provider, the sequences of instructions including  
5             instructions for performing the steps of:  
6             creating a schema that provides a set of rules for defining service level  
7                     agreements;  
8             receiving information defining ~~a particular~~ the service level agreement, wherein  
9                     said information defines one or more tests for monitoring the level of  
10                     service that has been offered to the customer; and  
11             verifying that the information defining ~~said particular~~ the service level agreement  
12                     conforms to the set of rules in said schema.
- 1     7.     (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium recited in claim 6, further  
2             comprising instructions for performing the steps of:  
3             if said information defining ~~said particular~~ the service level agreement conforms  
4                     to the set of rules in said schema, then  
5                     distributing the one or more tests to one or more agents that are configured  
6                             to communicate with devices that are associated with the particular  
7                             network;

8 receiving result information based on the devices performing the one or  
9 more tests; and  
10 creating and storing reporting information that indicates whether the  
11 customer is receiving the level of service that has been offered.

1 8. (Original) The computer readable medium recited in claim 6, wherein the step of  
2 creating a schema includes the step of generating a schema based on Extensible  
3 Markup Language (XML), wherein the schema provides a template for defining  
4 service level agreements.

1 9. (Original) The computer readable medium recited in claim 6, further comprising  
2 instructions for performing the steps of:  
3 generating, at a server, interface data for defining service level agreements; and  
4 communicating the interface data to a client that is remote from said server,  
5 wherein the interface data allows users to define tests for monitoring the  
6 level of service that is being provided by the service provider.

1 10. (Currently Amended) A network device configured for monitoring a service level  
2 agreement that defines for a particular network a level of service that has been  
3 offered to a customer by a service provider, comprising:  
4 a network interface;  
5 a processor coupled to the network interface and receiving information from the  
6 network interface;  
7 a computer-readable medium accessible by the processor and comprising one or  
8 more sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor,  
9 cause the processor to carry out the steps of:  
10 creating a schema that provides a set of rules for defining service level  
11 agreements;  
12 receiving information defining a particular ~~a-particular~~ the service level agreement,  
13 wherein said information defines one or more tests for monitoring  
14 the level of service that has been offered to the customer; and

15                    verifying that the information defining ~~said-particular~~ the service level  
16                    agreement conforms to the set of rules in said schema.

1    11.    (Currently Amended) A network device configured for monitoring a service level  
2           agreement that defines for a particular network a level of service that has been  
3           offered to a customer by a service provider, comprising:  
4           means for creating a schema that provides a set of rules for defining service level  
5           agreements;  
6           means for receiving information defining a ~~particular~~ the service level agreement,  
7           wherein said information defines one or more tests for monitoring the  
8           level of service that has been offered to the customer; and  
9           means for verifying that the information defining ~~said-particular~~ the service level  
10           agreement conforms to the set of rules in said schema.

1    12.    (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring a service level agreement,  
2           wherein the service level agreement defines for a particular network a level of  
3           service that has been offered to a customer by a service provider, the method  
4           comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
5           receiving information defining the service level agreement, wherein said  
6           information defines one or more tests for monitoring the level of service  
7           that has been offered to the customer;  
8           distributing the one or more tests to one or more agents that are configured to  
9           communicate with devices that are associated with the particular network;  
10           receiving result information based on the devices performing the one or more  
11           tests; and  
12           creating and storing reporting information that indicates whether the customer is  
13           receiving the level of service that has been offered.

1    13.    (Original) The method recited in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:  
2           generating a schema based on Extensible Markup Language (XML), wherein the  
3           schema provides a template for defining service level agreements; and

4            wherein the step of receiving information defining a service level agreement  
5            includes the step of receiving information that has been generated in  
6            accordance with said schema.

1    14.    (Original) The method recited in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:  
2            generating, at a server, interface data for defining the service level agreement; and  
3            communicating the interface data to a client that is remote from said server,  
4            wherein the interface data allows users to define tests for monitoring the  
5            level of service that is being provided by the service provider.

1    15.    (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium carrying sequences of  
2            instructions for monitoring a service level agreement, wherein the service level  
3            agreement defines for a particular network a level of service that has been offered  
4            to a customer by a service provider, the sequences of instructions including  
5            instructions for performing the steps of:  
6            receiving information defining the service level agreement, wherein said  
7            information defines one or more tests for monitoring the level of service  
8            that has been offered to the customer;  
9            distributing the one or more tests to one or more agents that are configured to  
10            communicate with devices that are associated with the particular network;  
11            receiving result information based on the devices performing the one or more  
12            tests; and  
13            creating and storing reporting information that indicates whether the customer is  
14            receiving the level of service that has been offered.

1    16.    (Original) The computer readable medium recited in claim 15, further comprising  
2            instructions for performing the steps of:  
3            generating a schema based on Extensible Markup Language (XML), wherein the  
4            schema provides a template for defining service level agreements; and

5           wherein the step of receiving information defining a service level agreement  
6                       configuration includes the step of receiving information that has been  
7                       generated in accordance with said schema.

1    17.   (Original) The computer readable medium recited in claim 15, further comprising  
2           instructions for performing the steps of:  
3           generating, at a server, interface data for defining the service level agreement; and  
4           communicating the interface data to a client that is remote from said server,  
5                       wherein the interface data allows users to define tests for monitoring the  
6                       level of service that is being provided by the service provider.

1    18.   (Currently Amended) A network device configured for monitoring a service level  
2           agreement that defines for a particular network a level of service that has been  
3           offered to a customer by a service provider, comprising:  
4           a network interface;  
5           a processor coupled to the network interface and receiving information from the  
6                       network interface;  
7           a computer-readable medium accessible by the processor and comprising one or  
8           more sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor,  
9           cause the processor to carry out the steps of:  
10           receiving information defining the service level agreement, wherein said  
11                       information defines one or more tests for monitoring the level of  
12                       service that has been offered to the customer;  
13           distributing the one or more tests to one or more agents that are configured  
14                       to communicate with devices that are associated with the particular  
15                       network;  
16           receiving result information based on the devices performing the one or  
17                       more tests; and  
18           creating and storing reporting information that indicates whether the  
19                       customer is receiving the level of service that has been offered.

1 19. (Original) The network device recited in claim 18, further executing instructions  
2 for performing the steps of:  
3 generating a schema based on Extensible Markup Language (XML), wherein the  
4 schema provides a template for defining service level agreements; and  
5 wherein the step of receiving information defining a service level agreement  
6 configuration includes the step of receiving information that has been  
7 generated in accordance with said schema.

1 20. (Original) The network device recited in claim 18, further executing instructions  
2 for performing the steps of:  
3 generating, at a server, interface data for defining the service level agreement; and  
4 communicating the interface data to a client that is remote from said server,  
5 wherein the interface data allows users to define tests for monitoring the  
6 level of service that is being provided by the service provider.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A network device configured for monitoring a service level  
2 agreement that defines for a particular network a level of service that has been  
3 offered to a customer by a service provider, comprising:  
4 means for receiving information defining the service level agreement, wherein  
5 said information defines one or more tests for monitoring the level of  
6 service that has been offered to the customer;  
7 means for distributing the one or more tests to one or more agents that are  
8 configured to communicate with devices that are associated with the  
9 particular network;  
10 means for receiving result information based on the devices performing the one or  
11 more tests; and  
12 means for creating and storing reporting information that indicates whether the  
13 customer is receiving the level of service that has been offered.

1   22.   (Original) A method for monitoring a level of service that is being provided to a  
2           customer by a service provider, the method comprising the computer-  
3           implemented steps of:  
4           storing information that defines the level of service that has been guaranteed to a  
5           customer by a service provider,  
6           receiving through a standardized open interface metric parameter information that  
7           defines one or more metric tests that are to be used to verify that the  
8           customer is receiving the level of service that has been guaranteed by the  
9           service provider; and  
10          verifying that based on the metric parameter information, the one or more metric  
11          tests will provide an appropriate set of tests for measuring the level of  
12          service that is being provided to the customer by the service provider.

1   23.   (Original) The method recited in claim 22, wherein the step of verifying the one  
2           or more metric tests includes the step of verifying that the one or more metric tests  
3           conform to a standard of testing that has been approved by the service provider.

1   24.   (Original) A method for monitoring a service level agreement, wherein the  
2           service level agreement defines for a particular network a level of service that has  
3           been offered to a customer by a service provider, the method comprising the  
4           computer-implemented steps of:  
5           receiving a service level agreement definition that defines one or more tests for  
6           monitoring the level of service that is being provided to the customer;  
7           receiving a service level contract definition that defines apply times for  
8           performing the one or more tests; and  
9           verifying that the service level agreement definition and the service level contract  
10          definition conform with the level of service that has been offered to the  
11          customer by the service provider.



1 25. (New) The computer readable medium recited in claim 6, further comprising  
2 instructions for performing the step of verifying that the particular network  
3 includes one or more devices that may be configured to perform the one or more  
4 tests.

1 26. (New) The network device recited in claim 10, wherein the computer-readable  
2 medium further comprises instruction for performing the steps of:  
3 if said information defining the service level agreement conforms to the set of  
4 rules in said schema, then  
5 distributing the one or more tests to one or more agents that are configured  
6 to communicate with devices that are associated with the particular  
7 network;  
8 receiving result information based on the devices performing the one or  
9 more tests; and  
10 creating and storing reporting information that indicates whether the  
11 customer is receiving the level of service that has been offered.

1 27. (New) The network device recited in claim 10, wherein the instructions for  
2 creating a schema includes instructions for generating a schema based on  
3 Extensible Markup Language (XML), wherein the schema provides a template for  
4 defining service level agreements.

1 28. (New) The network device recited in claim 10, wherein the computer-readable  
2 medium further comprises instruction for performing the steps of:  
3 generating, at a server, interface data for defining service level agreements; and  
4 communicating the interface data to a client that is remote from said server,  
5 wherein the interface data allows users to define tests for monitoring the  
6 level of service that is being provided by the service provider.

1 29. (New) The network device recited in claim 10, wherein the computer-readable  
2 medium further comprises instruction for performing the step of verifying that the  
3 particular network includes one or more devices that may be configured to  
4 perform the one or more tests.

1 30. (New) The network device recited in claim 11, further comprising:  
2 if said information defining the service level agreement conforms to the set of  
3 rules in said schema,  
4 means for distributing the one or more tests to one or more agents that are  
5 configured to communicate with devices that are associated with  
6 the particular network;  
7 means for receiving result information based on the devices performing  
8 the one or more tests; and  
9 means for creating and storing reporting information that indicates whether  
10 the customer is receiving the level of service that has been offered.

1 31. (New) The network device recited in claim 11, wherein the means for creating a  
2 schema includes means for generating a schema based on Extensible Markup  
3 Language (XML), wherein the schema provides a template for defining service  
4 level agreements.

1 32. (New) The network device recited in claim 11, further comprising:  
2 means for generating, at a server, interface data for defining service level  
3 agreements; and  
4 means for communicating the interface data to a client that is remote from said  
5 server, wherein the interface data allows users to define tests for  
6 monitoring the level of service that is being provided by the service  
7 provider.

1    33.    (New) The network device recited in claim 11, further comprising means for  
2            verifying that the particular network includes one or more devices that may be  
3            configured to perform the one or more tests.

1    34.    (New) The network device recited in claim 21, further comprising:  
2            means for generating a schema based on Extensible Markup Language (XML),  
3                        wherein the schema provides a template for defining service level  
4                        agreements; and  
5            wherein the means for receiving information defining a service level agreement  
6                        includes means for receiving information that has been generated in  
7                        accordance with said schema.

1    35.    (New) The network device recited in claim 21, further comprising:  
2            means for generating, at a server, interface data for defining the service level  
3                        agreement; and  
4            means for communicating the interface data to a client that is remote from said  
5                        server, wherein the interface data allows users to define tests for  
6                        monitoring the level of service that is being provided by the service  
7                        provider.